

## Beyonce, Pharrell sue over T-shirts with image



Leading musicians including Beyonce, Jay Z and Kanye West have filed a lawsuit in US federal court against a French apparel brand, accusing it of using their images without authorization. Other plaintiffs in the collective lawsuit against Eleven Paris include "Happy" creator Pharrell Williams and R&B singer Rihanna. The lawsuit, filed on Tuesday in New York, seeks an injunction and compensation for past sales of the items including shirts, caps, backpacks and cellphone cases. Among the products named in the suit are T-shirts that feature the hooded faces of Beyonce and Williams and one of Rihanna with her index finger held up like a mustache.

The lawsuit said it was especially egregious that the items remained for sale at the Eleven Paris boutique in New York's Soho district and that two new T-shirts just went on the market, which say "Kanye is my homie" and "Pharrell is my brotha." "Even after receiving warnings from plaintiffs ... defendants continue to sell unauthorized products and to trade upon the goodwill associated with plaintiffs, all for defendants' profit," the lawsuit said. Eleven Paris is also accused of using lyrics without authorization

and choosing names for products that are nearly identical to those of the artists, such as "Cayonce."

The lawsuit said that Eleven Paris "purposefully use(s) marks that are confusingly similar to plaintiffs' respective trademarks." Eleven Paris says its apparel is sold in more than 800 stores in 25 countries, although the vast majority are in France. "Negotiations have been underway with these individuals for nearly a year and continue," the company said in a statement in Paris. "Eleven Paris is determined to find a fair and balanced agreement with them and their legal representatives," it said.

The use of celebrities' images falls into complicated legal terrain with individual US states-but not the US federal government-recognizing a "right to publicity" that allows a person to determine how he or she can be used for commercial purposes. The lawsuit by the musicians makes the case that Eleven Paris infringed on their trademarks. — AFP

## Janet Jackson, Chicago, The Cars nominated for rock hall

Janet Jackson, Steve Miller, Chicago and The Cars are among the first-time nominees being considered for induction next year in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Cheap Trick, Los Lobos, Chaka Khan and James Brown's famed backup band The J.B.'s also are new to the ballot. Eight of the 15 potential honorees are first-timers, although none are in their first year of eligibility. More than 800 artists and members of the music industry vote on the inductees, who will be announced in December. Fans can also vote on the rock hall's website toward a "fan's ballot" that will also be counted. Artists back on the ballot for another try are Chic, Deep Purple, N.W.A., Nine Inch Nails, the Smiths, the Spinners and Yes. Janet - Miss Jackson if you're nasty - would uphold a family tradition. The Jackson 5 were inducted in 1997 and her late brother Michael joined as a solo artist in 2001. The singer of "If," "All For You" and "That's the Way Love Goes" just released "Unbreakable," her first new disc since 2008.

The California-based Miller, with hits like "Fly Like an Eagle" and "Jet Airliner" to his name, was a stalwart of 1970s radio along with the jazzy soft rock of Chicago, known for "Colour My World" and "If You Leave Me Now." The Cars' brittle New Wave pop of "My Best Friend's Girl" helped define the turn into the 1980s. Los Lobos' "How Will the Wolf Survive" and "Kiko" albums were critical favorites and the band has endured as a top live act. The stuttering recitation of Chaka Khan's name was a signature of her 1984 hit "I Feel For You." The J.B.'s well-disciplined tightness and supreme funk made them among the most sampled artists in music. Midwestern favorites Cheap Trick's Beatles-at-top-volume sound became a hit after they traveled to Japan and made a live album before an enthusiastic audience.

Artists are eligible for the hall 25 years after their first music is released. Acts nominated in their first year of eligibility, like Green Day last year, usually are slam dunks for inclusion but no one fits that bill this year. Of the returning nominees, Los Angeles rappers N.W.A. received a major publicity boost through the move "Straight Outta



Compton." This is the fourth year in a row they've been nominated. The nomination process hasn't resulted in "Good Times" for Chic. This marks their 10th time as a nominee; no other artist has been nominated so many times without induction. The Cleveland-based Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum generally inducts five performers a year, along with separately considered inductees in categories like non-performers or early influences. The induction ceremony will be in New York in April, at a venue and date to be announced later, and HBO will televise it at a later date. — AP

## Corgan picks vintage photos over Twitter

Smashing Pumpkins frontman Billy Corgan has never had a shortage of interests and, in his latest move, has left Twitter to focus on a blog called "People and Their Cars." The alternative rock icon, once an avid social media user, wrote in a final tweet Tuesday: "After mulling this for awhile, I'm deleting this account. So many thanks to those that have followed. Find me at PeopleAndTheirCars.com." The free site, despite its name, is not only for motor enthusiasts but focuses more generally on old photographs selected by Corgan.

On Facebook, where he maintains an account, Corgan described People and Their Cars as a collection of "vintage photos and ephemera." One recent picture showed an older couple standing next to decades-old parked cars with a caption, "Wanna Go for a Ride?" The caption reflects a line from "Zero," a song on the Smashing Pumpkins' influential 1995 album "Mellon Collie and Infinite Sadness." Corgan, who now signs off as William Patrick Corgan, led the Smashing Pumpkins to be one of the most influential bands in the alternative rock era of the 1990s with blaring guitar that gave way to quiet introspection.

He has since pursued a sprawling number of intellectual pursuits. Earlier this year, Corgan signed on to write storylines for a professional wrestling program, saying he believed the staged sport had the power to push boundaries on cultural issues. Last year, Corgan put on an eight-hour electronic performance at his Chicago-area teahouse based on "Siddhartha," Hermann Hesse's 1922 novel about the historical Buddha. — AFP



US musician Billy Corgan of the band Smashing Pumpkins as he performs on the Other Stage on the fifth day of the Glastonbury Festival of Contemporary Performing Arts near Glastonbury, southwest England. — AFP



## Craig says he'd rather kill himself than do another James Bond movie

There's been endless headlines speculating about who could play the next James Bond, and now the current famous superspy has stepped forward with his thoughts on the role. In an interview with TimeOut, Daniel Craig spoke candidly about the role and its future. "Look, I don't care—. Good luck to them," Craig said when asked if he cared who played Bond next. "All I care about is that if I stop doing these things we've left it in a good place and people pick it up and make it better."

Right now, the blue-eyed Bond, who appears next in "Spectre," can't fathom doing another 007 film. "Now? I'd rather break this glass and slash my wrists," Craig said. "No, not at the moment. Not at all. That's fine. I'm over it at the moment. We're done. All I want to do is move on." Craig went on to say that if he were to decide to go ahead with another Bond movie that "it would only be for the money." Whenever he does choose to hang up the Aston Martin keys, Craig did say that he would have one bit of advice for his successor. "Don't be s—," Craig said. "You've got to step up. People do not make movies like this anymore. This is really rare now. So don't be s—." — Reuters